Excess use of time by "News Tonight" Programme

*289. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "News Tonight" Programme which was exhibited on DD-2 from February, 1995 to October, 1996, was allotted 20 minutes time including Free Commercial Time, but had actually utilised 10 minutes more time i.e. 30 minutes;

(b) whether Government had charged dues for the aforesaid excess 10 minutes time from NDTV Producer of "News Tonight"; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir. The programme 'News Tonight', started in February, 1995, was initially of 20 minutes duration. Its duration was increased to 30 minutes with effect from 17th July, 1995.

(b) During the entire period, sponsorship fee applicable for a 30 minutes slot was charged for this programme.

(c) Does not arise.

Merger of Tanjore Bank and Indian Bank

*290. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tanjore Bank was losing heavily; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the Indian Bank paying Rs. 50 crores for the merger of former with it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The reference is presumably to Bank of Thanjavur Limited which was amalgamated with Indian Bank on 20.02.1990. The position of profit/loss of Bank of Thanjavur Limited for the following periods (before the merger) is furnished below;

Amount (Rs. in crores)

(i) for accounting year ended 31.3.89 (from) 1.1.88 to 31.3.89)	(0.73 (profit)
(ii) Accounting period from, 1.4.89 to 19.8.89 (date of moratorium) (141 days)	6.68 (loss)
(iii) Accounting period from 1.4.89 to 19.2.90 (date of amalgamation)	10.09 (loss)

(b) Indian Bank has not paid any amount for the merger of the Bank of Thanjavur Limited with it. At the time of amalgamation, the net deficit in meeting the deposit liabilities of the depositors of Bank of Thanjavur Ltd. was assessed at Rs. 15.05 crores as per valuation made by Indian Bank. The scheme of amalgamation provided for Indian Bank to have recourse to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation to the extent of latter's admissible liability. Pending settlement of claims by DICGC, Indian Bank had agreed to meet the deposit liabilities in full as on the date of amalgamation i.e. 20 February 1990. The amount of ultimate deficit, to be absorbed by Indian Bank, will be known only after effecting possible recoveries out of assets of the Bank of Thanjavur Ltd. which were considered as 'not readily realisable' as on the date of amalgamation i.e. 20.02.1990. The exact amount which will remain in deficit and ultimately be borne by Indian Bank, would be known after exercise of final valuation of assets and liabilities is completed for which a period of 12 years is provided in the scheme of amalgamation. Indian Bank has gained in terms of infrastructure and the sizeable branch network of the transfer or bank acquired by it consequent on the amalgamation.